KAORI ASANO'S

Vanity Angel

VENUS COMICS™

3
NOV. 1994

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$4.10 Can.

.Manga

ADULTS ONLY

ANTARCTIC BLAST
NOVEMBER 1994

YES, I'M A BIG MEANIE

Shortly after I turned in last month's editorial (STARRY-EYED DREAMERS), Pat Duke came to me and told me what a cool, on-the-mark bit of essaying I'd done. I swelled with pride, thinking, "Well, I must've really hit the target this time!"

It was all downhill from there.

The gist of the responses I got after Pat's, from both within the office and without, was that, gosh, I sure was awfully harsh on those tiny comics companies, and, gee, mightn't I be viewed as a major stone-throwing glass-house resident for beating up on publishers smaller than our own still-not-so-big company? The swollen balloon of my pride burst, flew around the room with a farting sound and flopped in the corner trash can with all the pencil shavings.

So what have I learned from this? (Aside from the fact that Pat is either my only true friend, or the only one who thinks I'm important enough to brown-nose to?)

Nothing! Ha-Ha! Yes, I am evil and want all crappy comic companies to die! Those things I said about sympathizing with little start-up companies, about giving them their due, about the importance of taking the time to at least look at every comic on the shelves, just in case it might turn out to be worthwhile . . . LIES! Kill them all! Burn their books and choke them on the ashes! Worse yet, force them to read *each others'* books, *then* kill them! Bury them as mummies in pyramids with copies of all their books so that they have to suffer through eternity with only caca to read! Antarctic Press is the only good small comics publisher! Others are unfit to have my sinuses emptied on them! When I said the comics industry is about the willingness to indulge someone else's dreams, I really meant the willingness to indulge *Antarctic Press'* dreams! The dreams of all others are dog vomit!

Uh . . . oops. Oh no. I'm sorry. That was awfully much.

I didn't mean it, really.

I'm a bad person.

I apologize.

Please don't see that my name is cursed and spat upon for all time.

BUT SERIOUSLY, FOLKS . . .

The market trundles along on its way, and there are two ways of viewing some of the current trends:

(1) Oh no, please, no! The direct sales market is drying up; distributors refuse to carry books by many small companies due to poor sales; retailers focus on known quantities and ignore many new independents; all is lost!

This view may very well be accurate. If so, it spells doom for most companies smaller than ours, and maybe even for us, in the long run. If a given retailer or distributor wants to avoid being burned by bad comics, the path of least resistance is simply to avoid ordering most independents. There are, after all, so many bad ones out there, so why waste the time on them?

(2) More realistically, and less pessimistically, I think the true fact of the matter is that retailers and distributors are being choosier, but often in a more informed manner. Matt High, our Sales and Promotions Wizard, recently went on a multinational, multiconvention tour (okay, he drove to Canada) and spoke with some of our distributors and many of our retailing customers along the way. The general consensus was that retailers want more information before they'll order a book, and that distributors are preparing as best they can to give it to them. We at Antarctic Press are going to try to do our part by providing the distributors with as much information and artwork as we can, and by sending out promotional copies to retailers wherever feasible.

An informed market is a stronger market. Most of the booms and busts of recent years can be traced to indiscriminate ordering, with everyone from the off-the-street customer to the biggest distributors buying up comics they hoped would be hot. I think we're moving into a phase now where all parties in the chain realize they have to be smarter . . . mostly because end readers are tired of bad comics, and pure speculation is dying off a bit.

In the short run, this may be bad for independents, especially the smallest ones. As the market undergoes a weeding out, there may be some choice petunias that get pitched along with the crabgrass. I hope there are no real tragedies along the way . . . the runaway successes of books like **Bone** and **Strangers In Paradise** lead me to believe that talent *will* eventually find its way to success. But a lot of independent companies are hurting right now, and it's probably going to get worse before it gets better.

My feeling, though, is that it will get better. The companies who remain after the shakedown will be better organized, and any new companies will have to come into the market better prepared in order to make it. I'm hoping that this means the average quality of the starry-eyed dreamers who get their books to the shelves will go up in the coming year or so.

If not, then maybe I'll get to write a *really* mean editorial.

Editor in Chief

A QUESTION OF DIVERSITY

This December, along with the rest of our books, we will be offering a fresh batch of comics. This lineup is called *Antarctic Alternatives*. I know we've mentioned them some in the past, but I think they deserve another mention here.

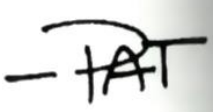
Our little comic book market is maturing; painfully slow it seems at times —but nonetheless— it is being dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 90's. Tolerance for more experimental comics, different genres and attitudes are bringing new readers into the fold. I attribute a significant portion of our phenomenal growth this year to the fact that we are servicing this largely untapped market. Many industry leaders are looking to successful foreign markets like Japan for clues on how they can get more people to participate in our medium. As most of our enlightened readers know, Japanese comics (manga) are often as big as phonebooks, and cover every subject under the sun including baseball, golfing and cooking. In Japan there is a comic for almost every type of reader —no potential audience is left untapped.

In America, things developed differently. Comics were largely considered a "childish" form of entertainment, and most companies aimed their material at younger audiences. Is it any surprise that their audience finally outgrew them?

That's all old news. The new buzz these days is "diversity". Distributors, afraid that the old superhero market is drying up, are trying to expand a second market for "alternative" material. I find it ironic that the "diversity" buzzword has found its way on to Image ads. Do they think their comics are *that* groundbreaking, *that* different from what we've already seen or is currently available from other companies? I certainly don't see them expanding secondary markets. Their strategy of milking the same tired market is short-sighted and ultimately self-defeating.

Antarctic Press is committed to expanding the market and attracting people outside the existing comic book readership. But don't take my word for it: I think our actions speak louder than our words. We've been publishing a lot of critically acclaimed titles, manga (one of the fastest-growing genres today) like Ninja High School and many other "alternative" titles for a *decade*. We're not new at this. Diversity isn't just a buzzword we attach to our ads to sell more copies. We're offering real solutions to insure the safety and future expansion of the industry.

Our latest efforts include Schizo, Naked Eye and Private Beach (which will be out in January). If you're into "alternative" or "diverse" material, please check them out; I know you'll be pleased. These new books are the culmination of a lot of dreams, and hard work, and I think they represent some of the best we have to offer.



CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases

RELEASE DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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- ☐ **Hitomi: Geohammer #7**
- ☐ **Mangazine #36**
- ☐ **NHS CD-ROM vol. 1 version 2**
- ☐ **Battle Binder Plus #1 (Venus)**
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- ☐ **Mangazine #16 (relist)**
- ☐ **Antares Circle #1 (relist)**
- ☐ **Antares Circle #2 (relist)**

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chapter. 5

Story and art: **Kaori Asano**
Translation : **Amacha de Cappore & Rimiko Sawada**
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Publisher: **Ben Dunn**
First published in Japan in 1992 by **Fujimi Publishing Co., Ltd.,Tokyo**
English translation rights arranged through **NIPPON SHUPPAN HANBAI INC.,Tokyo**

Note: All characters depicted within are eighteen years of age or older. This still applies even though Melon and Non's age will theoretically be a negative-four-digit number by the end of the story.

DING DONG

UHPHMD!

HURRY UP, MELON.

OKAY.

HOW'RE YOUR PANTIES?

I DIDN'T WEAR ANY.

SLAM

GOOD. THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

I THINK...

MELON, TAKE OFF YOUR SKIRT. IT'LL GET WRINKLED.

GCHACK!

OKAY.

CO... COME ON, NON.

OKAY!

OH...

HUH...

HUH...

UHHHNNN!

HIP

Ahhh

Lick

Lick

Lick

Lick

shilap

SHLiip...

cHLyaT..

cHLYAT...

OH,

UMMM...

HUH...

HMMM

GOOD.

OOOH GOOD!

AH

AH

AH

lick

Shliip

slurp

chlyat

chlyat

lick

chlyat

kiss

kiss

HUH

HUH

HUH

HUH

HUH

AH

SHLIP

CHLYAT

CHLYAT

CHLYAT

SHLIP

ZLIIP

PLISH

NILLP

SQUISH

GO AHEAD....

AH!

NON, I'M GONNA COME!

chlyat chlyat chlyat

Shliip Shliip Shliip

plish plish plish plish

HMM-

MN-

CHLYUP

CHLYUP

CHLYUP

MH!

AH!

shilap

shilap

shilap

OH!

OH!

Tk..

Thlllllllp

OOOOAAAAAAH!

GOOD THING I REMEMBERED YOUR 5TH CLASS WAS SEX ED SO I COULD RUN RIGHT TO YOU AFTER CLASS!

THANKS, NON!

TODAY IT WAS "HOW TO USE A CONDOM".... SO I IMAGINED MR. YAJIMA'S PENIS...

EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER SEEN IT.

IT'S TOO BAD OUR CLASSES ARE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF CAMPUS! IT'S REALLY FAR!

SORRY TO BE SO MUCH TROUBLE!

IT'S NO BIGGIE!

I SWORE TO HELP EASE YOU UNTIL MR. YAJIMA MAKES LOVE TO YOU, AND I'LL DO IT!

WITH THESE PLATINUM FINGERS!

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO FEEL HIS PENIS IN ME!

GOD, WHY DID I HAVE TO FALL FOR A GUY WHO HAS A GIRLFRIEND?!

KI-BOOM!

AH!

IT'S HIM.

B-RUMP

WHAAT?

DO YOU SENSE HIM AGAIN?!

UMP B-B

SIGH!

MR. YAJIMA ...

POP POP POP POP

UMP BUMP B-

WHAT'S IT GONNA BE *THIS* TIME?

EARTHQAKE

TSUNAMI

VOLCANIC ERUPTION

THUNDERSTORM

HURRICANE...

PLANETS THROWN OUT OF ALIGNME

FAMINE

FLOOD

PLAGUE

MA

OINK

POP POP POP POP POP POP POP POP POP POP

SURRR

!

LEAP!

EH?!

NOTHING COULD TAKE ME BY SURPRISE!!

COME ON! I'm READY!

MELON!!

CAT

THE SUMMER EXAM WAS...

REALLY EASY...

WHAT THE HELL

HOW

POP POP POP POP POP POP

H-HI! MR. YAJIMA.

HOW'RE YOU DOING?

N-

NON, MELON...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GEEZ, I DON'T HAVE MY PANTIES ON!

CLUTCH CLUTCH

UH..

HA, HA, HA!

W-WE'RE PRACTICING OUR FLYING...AH HA HA..

WHAT AM I *SAYING?!!*

POP! POP! POP! POP! POP! POP! POP!

NO! SHE'S IN OVERDRIVE!!

OH!!

AAA

WAKE

WHOOOOOOOO

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!!

KOOAR

MELON!! WAKE UP!!

T- THEY VANISHED ?

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO VANISH IN THE MIDDLE OF FLYING PRACTICE!

HOW? HOW? HOW?!!

ZZZ

POP

POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP

BOOM

THUD

EEEK!!

AEEK!!

OUCH! SHIT!

I SKINNED MY KNEE.

ZAP!

WHERE ARE WE?

DON'T KNOW....

puff

puff

pat

puff

ONE SIDE! ONE SIDE! EXPRESS PALANQUIN!!

THUMP

EEEK!

BONK!

HUH --

HUH --

WHAT IS THAT?

MAYBE... GOTTA BE!

PERHAPS.

NAW!

ALWAYS THE ONE...

INCONCEIVABLE!

NO WAY! BOGUS!

POSSIBLY... IT JUST MIGHT BE... COULD IT?

BINGO

EDO!

I DON'T THINK WE'RE IN TOKYO ANYMORE, MELON!

WOW!

THIS MUST BE KYOTO.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!

BECAUSE THIS LOOKS LIKE A SET FOR A PERIOD DRAMA.

THIS IS UZUMASA.*

NO! IT'S GOTTA BE FEUDAL EDO!

I'M POSITIVE!

ABSOLUTE!

* Uzumasa is a studio for Japanese Samurai Period dramas in Kyoto. Sort of like Old Tucson, Arizona.

DOES THIS TOWN LOOK LIKE A STUDIO SET? DOES THAT CASTLE LOOK FAKE?

NO . . .

VWISH!

THIS IS OLD TOKYO!!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID EDO....

RIGHT, SORRY.

I SEE. WE TIME SLIPPED.

MELON, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?!!

WOW!

COOL! I'M LIKE THAT GUY ON QUANTUM LEAP!!

OH BOY!!!

C'MON NON!

THIS IS A GREAT CHANCE! WE OUGHTA ENJOY THIS!

LET'S GO!

CHRIST!

SHE'S SO ADAPTABLE IT MAKES ME *SICK!*

skip skip skip

THIS IS COOL.

LOOK! THOSE ARE ALL REAL!

HE HAS A PONY TAIL!

IS HE RYOMA SAKAMOTO?*

MELON, THEY'RE ALL STARING AT US!

I GUESS WE LOOK KINDA WEIRD.

HI.

ARE THEY FOREIGNERS?

*The hero of Japan.

BANK

THIS IS FABULOUS.

THIS IS THE NEWEST IMPORTED WATCH!

"I AM 1,980 YEN! KAH HAH!"

Walt Disney

OH, DO YOU RECOGNIZE IT?

OF COURSE! I HAVE EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IMPORTED PRODUCTS!

THE BLACK SHIPS* CAME UPON MY INVITATION.

* Japan was a closed country for 260 years, so there weren't many people who knew of foreign things.

US admiral Perry came to Japan in 1853 with 4 ships. They were painted black, so they were called "The Black Ships".

SPEAKING OF WHICH..... YOUR CLOTHES LOOK GOOD TOO.

I COULD SELL THEM TO THE FIEF'S IDIOT PRINCESS FOR 2,000 RYO! **

** 1 ryo is approximately $1,000.00

WE'RE RICH! WE GOT 500 RYO FOR OUR UNIFORMS, BAGS, SHOES AND THE WATCH.

HE EVEN GAVE US KIMONOS FOR FREE!

HE'S A NICE GUY.

BY THE WAY, HOW MUCH *IS* 500 RYO?

IS IT LIKE 50,000 YEN?*

*$500.00

I BEG YOU, SIR! PLEASE DON'T TAKE THOSE! HOW WILL WE BE ABLE TO BAKE IF YOU TAKE THOSE?!

?

?

SHUT UP! YA OWE US TOO MUCH!!

YA BIMBO !!

HOLD IT, YOU GUYS!

HOW CAN THEY PAY OFF THEIR DEBT IF YOU TAKE THEIR BAKING EQUIPMENT?

WHO DA HELL ARE YOUSE?!

"YOUSE"?!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FROM ANCIENT JAPAN?!

MELON!

WHAT CUTE BABES!

YEAH, YEAH, YOUSE CAN PAY OFF DA 20 RYO.... WIT' YER BODIES!!

NON, HE MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO "EAT GATOR"!

MELON, ENOUGH!

THEN GIVE HIM 20 RYO!

BUT IT'S SO MUCH...

WE REALLY CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH....

HARUKI CAFÉ

CAFÉ and BAKERY

WE OWE YOU TOO MUCH, STRANGERS....

CAKES ARE CALLING ME! YUM!

OH, NO, IT WAS NOTHING!

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER, BUT WOULD YOU DO US THE HONOR OF STAYING HERE TONIGHT?

YES, PLEASE!

SHOULD WE?

WE DON'T HAVE ANY HOTEL RESERVATIONS ....

SPLASH

HEY, NON...

WHAT?

BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL GET BACK HOME, AND WE'LL NEED SOMEPLACE TO STAY TILL THEN.

BESIDES, I'VE GOT A PLAN.....

WHY DON'T WE ASK THEM IF WE CAN STAY HERE?

I DON'T THINK SO... WE DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN.

THEY DON'T HAVE ANY SOAP OR SHAMPOO THOUGH...

COME TRY THE NEW SWEET PASTRY FROM AMERICA!

TRY HARUKI-CAFE'S NEW PASTRY!

THESE CREPES ARE MORE DELICIOUS THAN CASTELLA FROM NAGASAKI.*

THESE ARE FREE SAMPLES!

*Castella is a Portuguese sponge cake. Nagasaki was the only port open to other countries, so Nagasaki had many foreign goods.

RUKI CAFE

THEY'RE IMPORTED, YOU SAY?

LET ME TRY IT!

GIMME ONE.

IT'S HARUKI-CAFE'S NEW RECIPE!

MUMBLE MURMUR

FROM THE BLACK SHIPS?

GOSSIP REMARK

HERE YOU GO, SIR!

SHE SAYS PERRY EATS THEM!

SO, ARE THESE CALLED "SAMPLES"?

NO, CREPES.

IF YOU LIKE THEM, PLEASE COME BACK AND BUY THEM!

LESS FILLING!

WOW TASTES GREAT

YUM!

WOW!

YOWZA!

HOT

HEY! THESE ARE GOOD!

HEY, NON, LET'S BAKE SOME. OTHER STUFF TOMORROW!

OKAY! GETTING INGREDIENTS IS A LITTLE HARD THOUGH...

ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL, OHARU?

IT IS, DEAR... THEY MUST BE GODDESSES OF LUCK.

HERE YOU GO.

OO-WEE!

HERE IT IS.

GIMME ONE!

YUM

THIS IS REALLY GOOD.

KLOP!

KLOP!

WE'RE REALLY BUSY!

WE SOLD OUT OF THEM SO FAST!

BUSY ENOUGH TO FORGET ABOUT MR. YAJIMA?

YEAH!

OH....

I REMEMBERED HIM...

UH OH!

STILL?

K-CHAK!

K-CHAK!

CLUTCH

...YEAH... I STILL GET WET...

I CAN FEEL MY CLIT GETTING BIGGER...

BLUSH!

OHARU, WHERE ARE THE GIRLS?

THEY'RE IN THE STORE-HOUSE LOOKING FOR INGREDIENTS. I OFFERED TO HELP.....

BUT THEY SAID I SHOULD REST.

HARD-WORKING AND KIND! WHAT NICE GIRLS!

AHA

OH!

HUH

OOO..

NN..

MN!

OH!

AH!

OH!

HUH!

OH!

AH!

AH!

OH!

OOH...

OOOH GOOOD.

IT'S SO GOOD, NON.

LET'S DO THIS AGAIN IN BED.

OH!

MM

NON, I'M GONNA COME!

OH!

HUH!

AH...

HUH

HUH

HUH

AAH!

OH!

AH, GIMME YOUR FINGERS, MELON!

OOH!

MN!

PLISH

PLISH

PLISH

NiliiP

CHYLiiiP

continued next issue!

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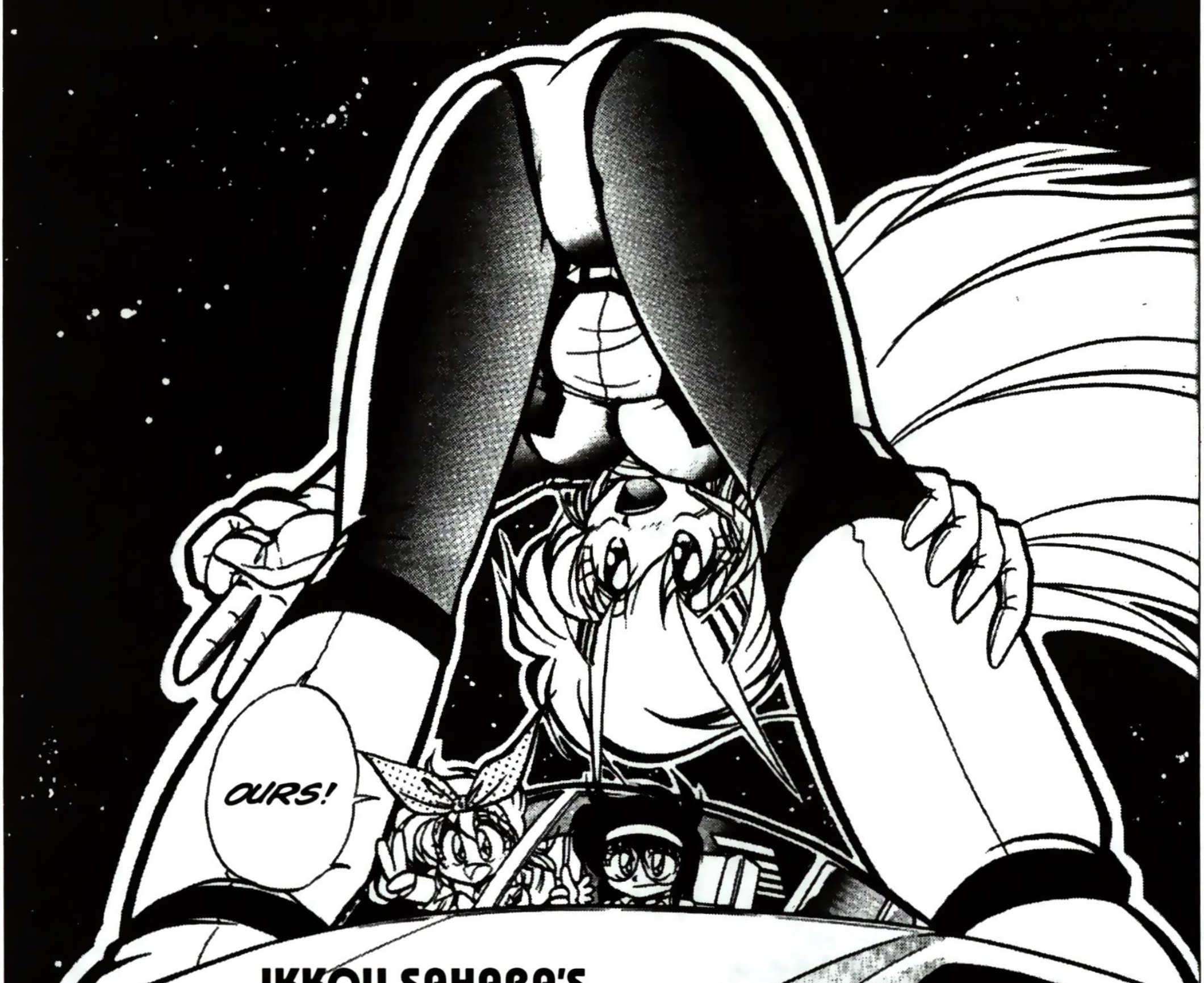

IKKOU SAHARA'S

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A dramatic yet lighthearted look at an interstellar conflict between giant aliens trying to conquer the Earth and Silbuster, the Earth's last line of defense!

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Artists: If you do any sort of anthropomorphic art, this is the place for you! Contact us for details.

We still have various items from past conventions available— write for an up-to-the minute list!

For further information, registration, and etc. contact:

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These Girls are through Having Fun.

It's now time for business.

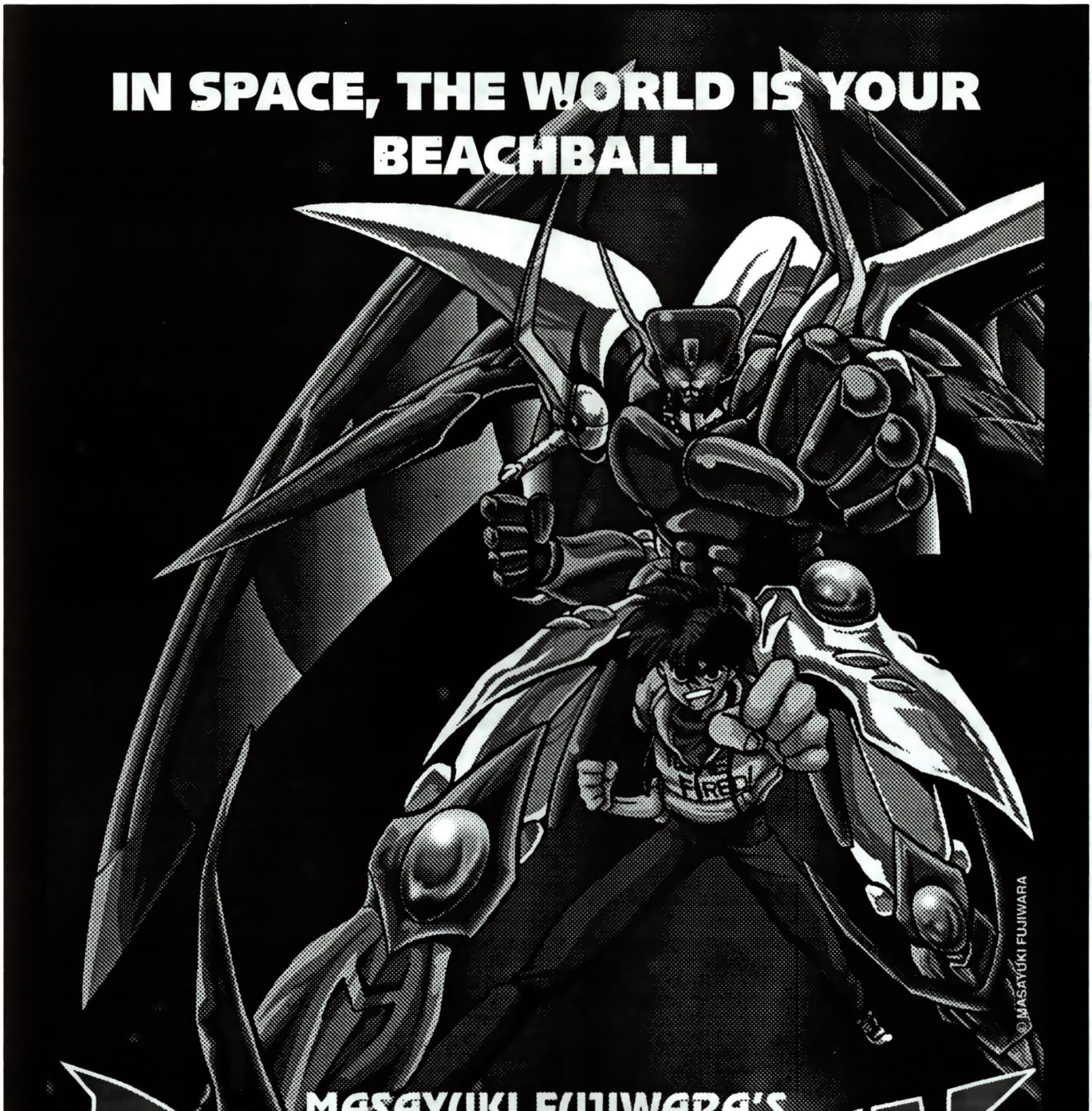
Just stay out of their way

HITOMI 2

and her girl commandoes

An Antarctic Press Bi-Monthly Series

IN SPACE, THE WORLD IS YOUR BEACHBALL.



MASAYUKI FUJIWARA'S

DODEKAIN

Follow the adventures of Takuma, an average high school kid who inherits the power of Dodekain, a robot larger than the Earth itself! Will he be able to use it to defend the world from extraterrestrial domination? Or will he just use it to impress his girlfriend?

An ongoing, monthly series from...

ANTARCTIC PRESS™

CAN THE COURAGE OF ONE WOMAN SAVE THE EARTH FROM ALL THE FORCES OF HELL?

IT CAN IF THAT WOMAN IS THE...

Warrior Nun Areala

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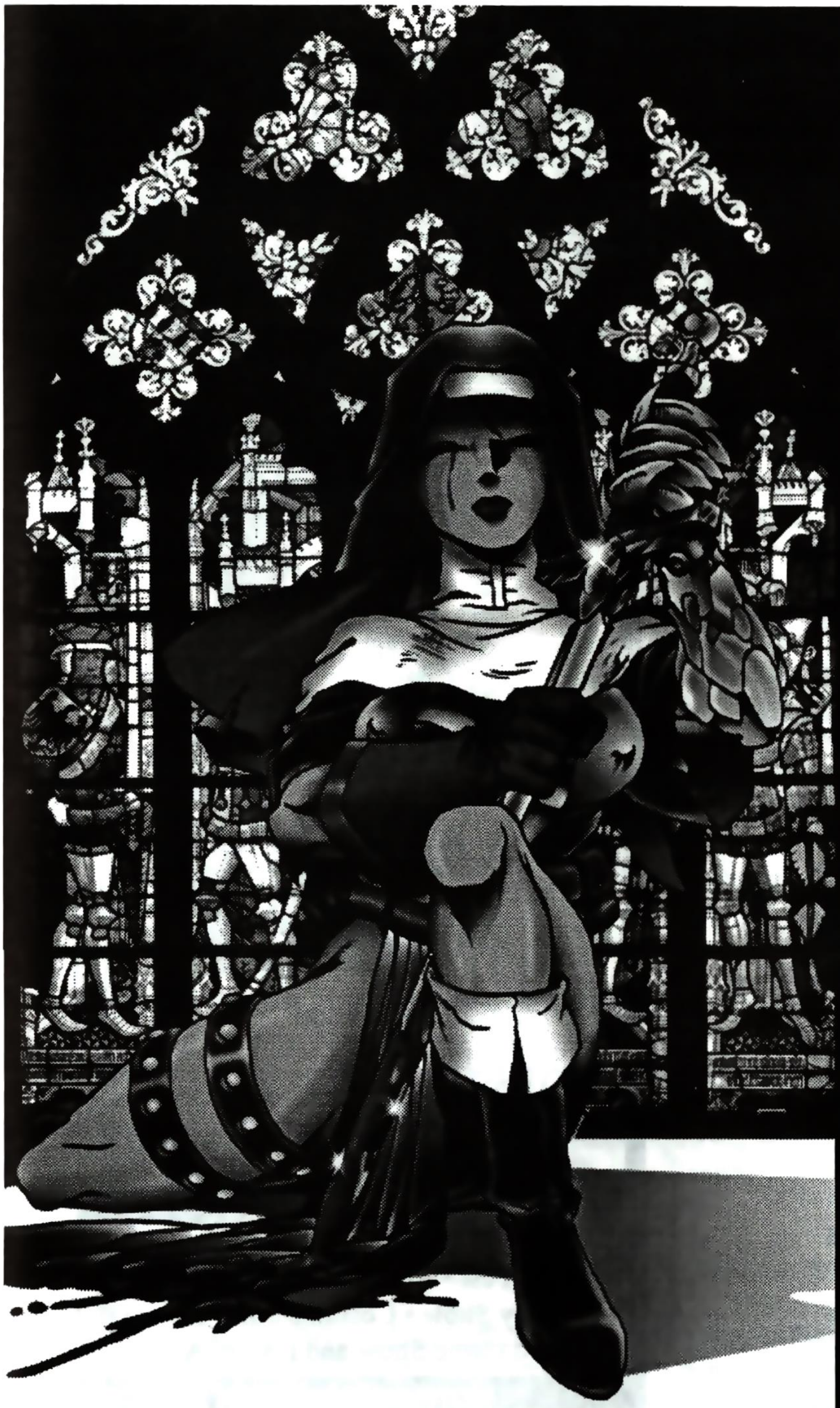

EVERY MAJOR RELIGION HAS ITS FIGHTERS.

THOSE WHO WOULD DEFEND THEIR BELIEFS FROM THOSE THAT WOULD SEEK TO DESTROY THEM.

IF NECESSARY THEY WOULD GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR THESE BELIEFS.

THIS IS THE STORY OF ONE SUCH FIGHTER. A FIGHTER WHOSE SKILL IN COMBAT IS AS HONED TO PERFECTION AS HER BELIEF IN HER CHURCH.

BUT CAN EVEN SHE STAND-UP TO THE FORCES OF EVIL NOW RALLIED AGAINST MAN-KIND?

ONLY GOD KNOWS.

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BEN
DUNN

East Coast Regional Anime - Manga Convention and Exposition

February 17 - 19, 1995

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Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA

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Creator of Kimagure Orange Road

JOHJI MANABE
Manga Artist, Writer and Creator of *Outlanders, Carvan Kidd, Capricon* and *Rai.*

SCOTT FRAZIER
American Veteran of the Japanese Animation Industry. Founder of *Tao Studios.*

YOSHIHIRO YONEZAWA
Founder and President of "Comic Market"

STEVE BENNETT
Staff Animator for *Catseye* and *Urusei Yatsura* TV series, and *Final Yamato.*

BEN DUNN
Founder of Antarctic Press
Creator of *Ninja High School*

ROBERT DeJESUS
Artist for *S.B. Ninja High School*
Inker for American *Bubble Gum Crisis* comic

FRED PERRY
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DANNY FAHS
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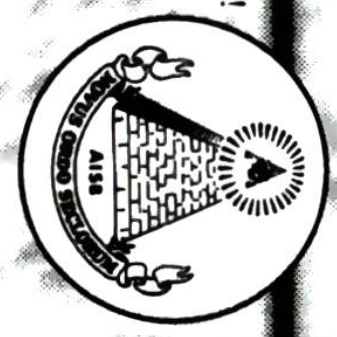

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